

IN THE CLAIMS

1-14 (Canceled).

15. (Withdrawn) An endoscope imaging apparatus comprising:

an optical part moving mechanism for moving an imaging optical unit or an imaging element in an optical axis direction to thereby perform a focus adjustment or a zooming adjustment, wherein:

a tubular member having an elastic force is disposed in a part of a power transmission system for transmitting a power to the optical part moving mechanism; and the power for moving the optical part moving mechanism originates from a rotary power source.

16-17 (Canceled).

18. (Currently Amended) An endoscope imaging apparatus, comprising:

an optical system including at least one optical lens for obtaining an optical image of a subject;

an optical system support member for supporting the optical system;

an imaging element for capturing an optical image ~~based on a luminous flux~~ from the optical system;

an imaging element support member for supporting the imaging element; and

a tubular member comprising a first end and a second end, the tubular member defining an inner space extending therethrough and between the first end and the second end, the optical system being hermetically joined to the first end and the imaging element being hermetically

joined to the second end thereby airtightly sealing the inner space, the tubular member further comprising a bellows portion being deformable while maintaining the airtight seal of the inner space in response to relative movements of the optical system support member and the imaging element support member in a direction along an optical axis of the optical system and in a direction perpendicular to the optical axis of the optical system.

19. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the optical system support member further comprises an optical system fixing portion for fixing the optical system and an optical system frame member defining an inner space in which the optical system fixing portion is located, the optical system frame member being hermetically joined to the tubular member.

20. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the imaging element support member further comprises an imaging element fixing portion for fixing the imaging element and an imaging element frame member defining an inner space in which the imaging element fixing portion is located, the imaging element frame member being hermetically joined to the tubular member.

21. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 18, further comprising an adjusting mechanism for moving the optical system support member and the imaging element support member relative to each other.

22. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 21, wherein

the adjusting mechanism moves the optical system support member relative to the imaging element support member.

23. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the adjusting mechanism moves the imaging element support member relative to the optical system support member.

24. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 18, further comprising an adjusting frame member defining an inner space in which the optical system support member and the imaging element support member are located, the adjusting frame member moving the optical system support member and the imaging element support member relative to each other.

25. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the adjusting frame member moves the optical system support member relative to the imaging element support member.

26. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the adjusting frame member moves the imaging element support member relative to the optical system support member.

27. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the optical system support member comprises an optical system fixing portion for fixing

the optical system and an optical system frame member defining an inner space in which the optical system fixing portion is located, the adjusting frame member moving the optical system frame member relative to the imaging element support member.

28. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the imaging element support member comprises an imaging element fixing portion for fixing the imaging element and an imaging element frame member defining an inner space in which the imaging element fixing portion is located, and wherein the adjusting frame member moves the imaging element frame member relative to the optical system support member.

29. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 18, further comprising a filter unit located in the inner space of the tubular member and between the optical system and the imaging element for selecting one of a plurality of observation states.

30. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the plurality of observation states comprise a normal light observation state, an enlarged observation state, and a fluorescent light observation state.

31. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 30, wherein the filter unit defines an opening for the normal light observation state.

32. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the filter unit defines an opening.

33. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the filter unit defines a plurality of openings, each of the plurality of openings comprising one of a filter and a lens.

34. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the filter unit is hermetically joined to the tubular member thereby airtightly sealing the inner space of the tubular member.

35. (Previously Presented) An endoscope imaging apparatus according to claim 34, wherein the filter unit defines a plurality of openings and comprises a plurality of filters, at least one of the plurality of openings or one the plurality of filters being selected according to the observation state, and

the endoscope imaging apparatus further comprises a filter unit moving mechanism to move the filter unit in a direction perpendicular to the direction of the optical axis of the optical system to change the observation state while maintaining the hermetic seal of the inner space of the tubular member and position one of the plurality of filters or one of the plurality of openings on the optical axis according to the observation state.